

AUSTIN FARM

Academy

Newsletter 14/02/2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has sped by and the children have been working hard right up until the end, please see below for what they have been learning this week.

On Tuesday morning, Hayley from Plymouth Schools Sports Partnership came in to run cheerleading taster sessions for all classes. After a little hesitation from some children about trying the new sport, it was so lovely to see ALL the children who took part smiling, enjoying

themselves and getting involved. The children, in every year group, have commented upon how much they enjoyed it and want to do it again. As a result, we are trying to organise a cheerleading club but, in the meantime, you may have some requests for pom poms for birthday presents!

32 of our children achieved their Accelerated Reader targets for this half term and as a reward they will be able to have a special mufti day on the first Friday back after half term. Your child's class teacher will remind you on Dojo during the first week back.

Staffing news...Mrs Bojang is going on maternity leave after half term (although you may see her around the school for the first week) and Mr Furby is starting as class teacher for Year 5/6 on Monday 24th February. I am sure you will join me in wishing her luck with her new bundle of joy and we are sure she will visit when she can to introduce us to her new family member.

Mrs Watson is reducing to 2 days a week after half term; she will be teaching Monday & Tuesday, and we welcome Mr Joel Williams to our staff team who will be EYFS/Year1 class teacher Wednesday - Friday, starting Wednesday 26th February until the end of the year.

Thank you to those of you who have responded to Mrs Hobbins' request and donated toys to support one of our children. We appreciate your support and kindness.

Date to remember...for those of you who like to be organised World Book day is Thursday 6th March. This is the second week back; children can come dressed as their favourite book character, or for those who don't like to dress up, bring a clue to your favourite character. E.g. A red ribbon for Matilda, a stripy hat for cat in the hat, glasses or a wand for Harry Potter etc.

Happy Valentines day! I hope you have a great week off and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 24th February.

Fingers crossed for warmer weather when we return!

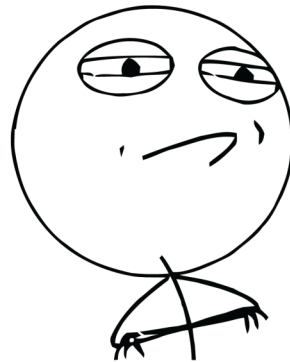
Mrs Baptiste

Foundation/Year 1: We have really enjoyed immersing ourselves in the story of the Three Little Pigs by acting out the story, sequencing the story and completing an experiment where we built houses from different materials for the Three Little Pigs then used a hair dryer to simulate the Big Bad Wolf huffing and puffing. Our predictions were correct, that the house of bricks was the strongest and stayed up, but we were surprised that our house of sticks also stayed up - we obviously have amazing builders in class 😊. We have also been doing a few Valentines activities - the children particularly enjoyed making Love Potions.



Year 2: In PE, we worked in pairs to make up our own game which focussed on accurate throwing. We had a choice of equipment including cones, hoops, tennis balls, soft balls and playground markings. Once we had agreed on the rules of our game we had to identify how the game can be made easier and how it can be made more challenging. We then teamed up with another pair to teach each other our games. We enjoyed playing the games and loved how the level of challenge could be adapted.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED



Year 3: In RE, the children have been exploring the Hindu story of the birth of the God Ganesha. They enjoyed listening to the story and were able to retell it in their own words. We also discussed the significance of Mount Kailash in the narrative, highlighting its importance as the sacred home of Lord Shiva. The children have really enjoyed extending their knowledge on Hinduism this term.

Year 4: What a fantastic week Year 4 has had! In Maths, we've been learning about perimeter, figuring out how to find missing lengths on rectilinear shapes. The children have shown brilliant problem-solving skills, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence grow. In Science, we sparked some curiosity by exploring electrical conductors and insulators. The excitement was

real when the class used multiple pieces of foil in a circuit to successfully light up a bulb. Make sure to check our Dojo page for photos of the experiments - it's definitely worth a look! And let's not forget about our English lessons, where the class has been captivated by the delightful tales of Paddington Bear. They're really enjoying his adventures, and it's lovely to see their imaginations come alive. All in all, it's been a week filled with brilliant learning and enthusiasm. Well done, Year 4!



Year 5/6: We have been immersed in our new English unit book, Hansel and Gretel. We have been looking at how it is different to 'normal' traditional fairy tales and enjoying the goriness of it. In PE, we thoroughly enjoyed both the cheerleading taster session and getting the equipment out in PE – including the big climbing frame. In Science, we have finished our unit on light; we have enjoyed the practical aspects and have become Scientists when drawing diagrams and giving explanations using the correct terminology.





1 - Well done to our learners of the week!

Foundation: H.Ashton

Year 1: S.Tippett

Year 2: N.Parker

Year 3: A.Warner

Year 4: Z.Krasowska

Year 5: M.Scott

Year 6: E.Shepherd

Lunch Menu 1

LUNCH MENU 1

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had to adapt some of our school dinners for the first week back.

Tuesday - Katsu chicken curry will be a normal chicken curry.

Friday - Fish fingers and pasta instead of chips.



Monday



| Main | Vegetarian | Sides | Jacket Potato | Dessert |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Cheese and tomato pizza | Vegetable bean wrap | Seasonal Vegetables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese • Beans • Tuna | Pancakes with banana and honey |

Tuesday



| Main | Vegetarian | Sides | Jacket Potato | Dessert |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Chicken curry | Cheese and potato pie | Seasonal Vegetables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese • Beans • Tuna | Chocolate brownie surprise |

Wednesday

| Main | Vegetarian | Sides | Jacket Potato | Dessert |
|--------------|-----------------|--|---|------------------|
| Roast gammon | Vegetable Plait | Roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese • Beans • Tuna | Custard biscuits |



Thursday

| Main | Vegetarian | Sides | Jacket Potato | Dessert |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Meatball in tomato sauce | Vegetable balls in tomato sauce | Seasonal vegetables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese • Beans • Tuna | Apple crumble and custard |



Friday



| Main | Vegetarian | Sides | Jacket Potato | Dessert |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Fish fingers | Vegetable nuggets | Seasonal vegetables Pasta | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese • Beans • Tuna | Oat and sultana cookies |



Well done to Year 4 on getting 99% attendance this week.



Dates to remember!!!

Spring term - Year 6 and Foundation Height and weight checks - Date TBC.

24/02/2025 - First day of Spring 2 half term.

27/02/2025 - Peninsula Dental outreach programme - workshop for Year 2 pupils.

03/03/2025 - Cricket taster day! Sessions for all classes - PE kits for all pupils please.

04/03/2025 - Healthy smiles - 2nd Fluoride application for EYFS & Year 1 pupils.

06/03/2025 - World Book Day - dress as a book character or wear a clue for your favourite character. £1 book tokens each child.

13/03/2025 - Kurling taster sessions for all classes - PE kits to be worn by all pupils please.

25/03/2025 - parents evening, 3.30 - 5.30pm - EYFS/Yr1, Year 2 & Year 4.

26/03/2025 - parents evening, 3.30 - 5.30pm - all classes.

27/03/2025 - parents evening, 3.30 - 5.30pm Year 3 & Year 5/6.

03/04/2025 - Headteacher's award assembly 2.30pm.

03/04/2025 - Easter tuck shop 3.15 - 3.45pm

04/04/2025 - Last day of Spring term & PTA Easter Hamper draw!

22/04/2024 - First day back of Summer Term. It's a Tuesday!

Community Notices

South Devon Dads Project

Construction Skills #1

Learn basic carpentry - make a wooden toolbox to take home

With expert tuition from Plymouth City College

Sat. 8th March

Plymouth City College, Picquet Barracks,
Cumberland Road, Devonport, Plymouth. PL1 4HX

9.30am - 12.30

Booking Essential - limited to 10 dads & 10 children

Cost: FREE (donations welcome)

Wear suitable clothes & shoes (e.g. no flip-flops).
Hot drinks/ water supplied. All equipment supplied.
Free parking. You must book.

All dads and male carers with children aged 5 and over only.

PLEASE BOOK: info@thedadsnetwork.org

CLAY DAY

Spend the day
foraging, clay
plate building and
campfire s'mores
eating!

FREE
aged between 12
and 18 living in
Plymouth.

Location: Poole Farm
Date: Monday 17th
OR Tuesday 18th
February 2025
Time: 10am - 4pm



For more info and booking contact:
Emily: emily.richards@fgct.co.uk
OR Emmie: emmeline.kwaan@fgct.co.uk



MARKET HALL

FREE DOME EXPERIENCE

FOR DADS & MALE CARERS

Come along and enjoy:

- ◆ A taster of our immersive dome experiences
- ◆ Finding out more about our new series of free sessions for dad's
- ◆ A chance to learn more about Market Hall and meet new people

FREE TO ATTEND!

4pm - 5pm
Monday 17th February

For more information about Market Hall, visit: www.realimmersive.org



Half- Term Fun

Monday 17th

9.30-11.30 Pancakes, Café, Games & Crafts St Edward's Church Hall

3.30-5.30 Community Cafe and Hygiene Hub Christ Church Estover

Tuesday 18th

10.00-12.00 Pancakes , Cafe, Games & Crafts Christ Church Estover

Wednesday 19th

11.30-2.00 Community Cafe St Edward's Church Hall

2pm Family Quiz St Edward's Church Hall

FREE EVENTS - DONATIONS WELCOME

Information on term time holidays from West Country Schools Trust.




WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOLS TRUST

ATTENDANCE WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160




2 FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE 10 IN 10

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = 2 Sessions


+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160
4 children & 1 parent = £640
 Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days



3 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS

+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160


4 children & 2 parents = £1280
 Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days



If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

4

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>2ND TIME</p> <p>2 parents and 1 child = £320 2 children = 640 3 children = 960 4 children = 1280</p> <p>No discount for early payment</p> | <p>3RD TIME</p> <p>A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child</p> <p>1 parent & 4 children = £10,000 2 parents & 4 children = £20,000</p> |
|---|---|



2 - Before you book your term time holiday, consider is it worth it? One of our families has been fined already this year, don't be the next one.

5 minutes late, does it really matter ?

Lateness = Lost Learning

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

- 5 Minutes late each day - 3 days lost
- 10 Minutes late each day - 6.5 days lost
- 15 Minutes late each day - 10 days lost
- 20 Minutes late each day - 13 days lost
- 30 Minutes late each day - 19 days lost

WeST Term Dates 2024-2025

WeST Term Dates 2024 to 2025

Agreed for wider distribution

| Aug 2024 | | | | | | | Sep 2024 | | | | | | | Oct 2024 | | | | | | |
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| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| | | | | | | | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Nov 2024 | | | | | | | Dec 2024 | | | | | | | Jan 2025 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
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| Feb 2025 | | | | | | | Mar 2025 | | | | | | | Apr 2025 | | | | | | |
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| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |
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| May 2025 | | | | | | | Jun 2025 | | | | | | | Jul 2025 | | | | | | |
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Key: Peach - holiday periods; light green - weekends; blue - Trust NPD; yellow - School NPD

Important dates

Autumn Term Dates: Monday 2 September to Friday 25 October, then Monday 4 November to Friday 20 December

Term 1: 40 days (inc. School NPD Mon 2 Sept and WeST NPD Tues 3 Sept)

Term 2: 35 days

Spring Term Dates: Monday 6 January to Friday 14 February, then Monday 24 February to Friday 4 April

Term 3: 30 days (inc. School NPD Monday 6 January)

Term 4: 30 days

Summer Term Dates: Tuesday 22 April to Friday 23 May, then Monday 2 June to Tuesday 22 July (Note: NPDs on Mo 21 and Tu 22 Jul '25 are

disaggregated for staff twilight training throughout the year. The last day of the academic year for students and staff is Friday 18 July 2025)

Term 5: 23 days

Term 6: 37 days

WeST Term Dates 2025-2026

WeST Term Dates 2025-2026

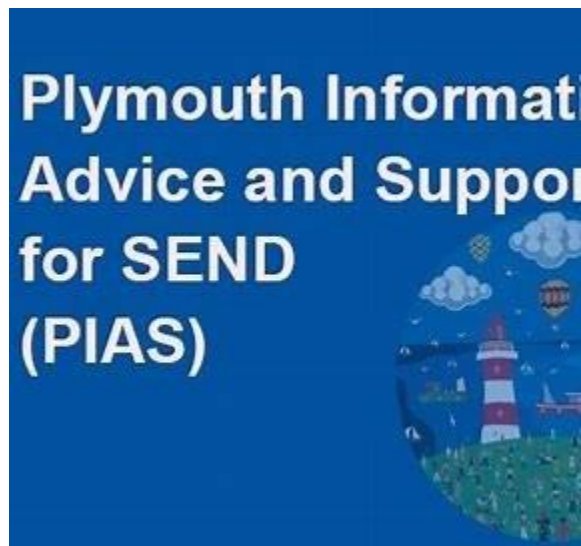
| Aug 2025 | | | | | | | Sep 2025 | | | | | | | Oct 2025 | | | | | | |
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| Nov 2025 | | | | | | | Dec 2025 | | | | | | | Jan 2026 | | | | | | |
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| Feb 2026 | | | | | | | Mar 2026 | | | | | | | Apr 2026 | | | | | | |
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| May 2026 | | | | | | | Jun 2026 | | | | | | | Jul 2026 | | | | | | | | |
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| Key | |
|---|-----------------|
| | Holiday periods |
| | Bank holidays |
| | Weekends |
| | Trust NPDs |
| | School NPDs |



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